

REMARKS

The examiner contends that claims 1-7, 11-27, 29 and 32-41 of the present invention are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Breidenbach (US 6,276,853). The examiner further contends that claims 8-10, 28, 30 and 31 of the present invention are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Breidenbach in view of Montoli (US 6,682,242 B1). The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Because the art cited by the examiner fails to anticipate the present invention or render it obvious, the present invention is patentable. The applicant has made corrections to the claims and specification to satisfy the examiner's objections.

The applicant respectfully submits that the art cited by the examiner fails to anticipate the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) because the present invention was not filed more than one year after the issue date of the '843 patent. The present invention was filed with the USPTO on April 25, 2001, the '843 patent issued on Aug. 21, 2001. The Breidenbach '843 patent is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). The pertinent language of 35 U.S.C. 102 reads: "A person shall be entitled to a patent unless: (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States."

The applicant respectfully submits that Montoli, also cited by the examiner, fails to render the present invention obvious. The present invention was filed with the USPTO on April 25, 2001.

Montoli issued on January 27, 2004 and was filed on October 8, 2002, after the present invention was filed. Montoli is not prior art. Montoli fails to render the present invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicant's claims are patentable over the cited prior art and the application should be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. O'Rourke

Reg. No.: 27,665

BODNER & O'ROURKE, L.L.P.

425 Broadhollow Road

Melville, New York 11747

(631) 249-7500